organised in New Delhi on April 3, 1993, one view that emerged was that concessions on black money announced under Central Budget year after year was the main reason for criminalisation of politics;

(b) if so, what is Government's reaction thereto; and

(c) what were the other main observations and suggestions made at the seminar?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M. V. CHANDRASHEKHAR MURTHY): (a) The Ministry of Finance have not conducted any seminar on black moey and Budget concessions on April 3, 1993.

(b) and (c) Do not arise in view of reply to part (a).

Purchase of Jahangirabad Mansion

1608. SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a news item which appeared in the Swantantra Bharat (Lucknow edition) dated the 1st September, 1990, captioned as "Kharida Kaurion Ke Mol";

(b) If so, what are the details thereof;

(c) whether Government have taken any action against the officials of the CBDT involved in the fraud and whether any amount has since been recovered from the owner of the Jahangirabad Mansion; and

(d) if so, what are the details thereof and if not, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M. V. CHANDRASHEKHAR MURTHY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The article in the newspaper alleged that one building namely 'Jahangirabad Mansion' was sold at an abnormally low price of Rs. 22 lacs (consisting of Rs. 14 lacs for the building and Rs. 8 lacs for the adjoining land). The sale has allegedly resulted in loss of revenue of at least Rs. 1 Crore to the Income-tax Department and also involves passing of huge amount of unaccounted money. The registration of the transaction at Bombay also resulted in loss of Stamp duty for the U.P. State Government. The article also states that the property was under attachment orders of the Income-tax Department upto 21.4.89 which were withdrawn to enable the owner to sell the property in violation of rules and regulations.

(c) and (d) The property 'Jahangirabad Mansion' was owned by Raja Jamal Rasool Khan. This was attached by the Income-tax Department on account of arrears of Income-tax & Wealth-tax against the owner. In 1986, Raja Jamal Rasool Khan proposed to pay the outstanding demands by sale of this property subject to the permission of such sale, by the Income-tax Department. This proposal was agreed to and the property was allowed to be sold, subject to the payment of the entire outstanding demand. The attachment order was withdrawn only on 28-1-1990 after payment of the outstanding demand had been made. As such there has been no irregularity or violation of any rules/regulations in withdrawin the attachment order.

The allegation of under valuation of the sale price and passing of unaccounted money in the transaction has been enquired and action as permitted under law has been taken in this case.

In view of above facts, the question of taking of any action against officials of the Income-tax Department does not arise.